

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Holliday Lake State Park  
other names/site number Holiday Lake Recreation Area, Holiday Lake State Park, #006-0051

**2. Location**

street & number 2759 State Park Road not for publication N/A  
city or town Appomattox vicinity X  
state Virginia code VA county Appomattox code 011 zip code 24522

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_\_\_ nationally X statewide \_\_\_\_\_ locally. (\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. (\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is:

\_\_\_\_ entered in the National Register  
\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register  
\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register  
\_\_\_\_ removed from the National Register  
\_\_\_\_ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

## 5. Classification

### Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

☐ private  
☐ public-local  
☒ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

### Category of Property (Check only one box)

☐ building(s)  
☒ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

### Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>15</u> buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> sites
<u>7</u>	<u>3</u> structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u>9</u>	<u>19</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) Civilian Conservation Corps Parks of Virginia, MPS

## 6. Function or Use

### Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Recreation/Culture</u>	Sub: <u>Outdoor Recreation</u>
<u>Landscape</u>	<u>Park</u>
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>Camp</u>
<u>Transportation</u>	<u>Road-related</u>
<u>Transportation</u>	<u>Pedestrian-related</u>

### Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Recreation/Culture</u>	Sub: <u>Outdoor Recreation</u>
<u>Landscape</u>	<u>Park</u>
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>Camp</u>
<u>Transportation</u>	<u>Road-related</u>
<u>Transportation</u>	<u>Pedestrian-related</u>

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19<sup>th</sup> and Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century American Movements  
Modern

### Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete  
 roof Asphalt  
 walls Brick  
 other Wood

**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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**Applicable National Register Criteria** (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations** (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ B removed from its original location.

☐ C a birthplace or a grave.

☐ D a cemetery.

☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ F a commemorative property.

☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

Entertainment/Recreation

Architecture

Landscape Architecture

**Period of Significance** 1937-1942

**Significant Dates** 1939

**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

**Cultural Affiliation** N/A

**Architect/Builder** N/A

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS)**

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

☐ previously listed in the National Register

☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #                     

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

**Primary Location of Additional Data**

☒ State Historic Preservation Office  
☐ Other State agency  
☐ Federal agency  
☐ Local government  
☐ University  
☐ Other

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 254.63 acres, includes 150-acre lake

**UTM References** (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing      Zone Easting Northing  
1                                      2

☒ See continuation sheet.

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Meg Greene Malvasi  
organization William and Mary Center for Archaeological Research date May, August 2008  
street & number 13803 Sterlings Bridge Road telephone 804.763.3595  
city or town Midlothian state VA zip code 23112

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps** A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs** Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation  
street & number 203 Governor Street telephone 800-933-7275  
city or town Richmond state VA zip code 23219

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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**Holliday Lake State Park  
Appomattox County, Virginia**

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**Architectural Description  
Summary Statement**

A winding dirt and gravel road from Virginia State Route 15 leads to Holliday Lake State Park, located near the center of the Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest. The park encompasses almost 255 acres, the center of which is the 150-acre man-made lake, one of the largest in the area. In addition to the lake, the park's resources includes a 30-site campground, a large shaded picnic area, two picnic shelters, two playgrounds, a boat ramp, a seasonal full-service concession stand, restroom facilities, a camp store, and boat shed for canoe, rowboat and paddle boat rentals. Trails for hiking, biking and horseback riding cut through the park. The lake and adjoining beach area offers swimming and fishing. In addition, the park also includes a single cabin used for YWCC activities, two residences for park rangers, a park office, two maintenance sheds and a well house. Additional structures contained within the park includes bridges, a dam and spillway.

The park was one of four recreational areas developed by the Virginia Division of Forestry (now the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation) working in conjunction with the Forestry Service-controlled Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) during the Depression. While built during the same period as many of the National Park Service's State Parks, Holliday Lake was not held to the same strict design standards as found in those parks. Still, the influence of the National Park Service's design and layout can be seen in Holliday Lake State Park.

**Detailed Description**

The topography of the park consists largely of gently sloping hills and some low-lying areas around the lake and beach. In general the layout of the park is such that there are discrete areas for particular activities. Recreational activities such as swimming, boating and fishing are concentrated around the lake area. and campgrounds. The major unifying elements at Holliday Lake as well as the other Recreational Demonstration Areas were similar to those of the first six state parks created approximately during period of the Depression. For Holliday Lake, the major park components consist of the vehicular and pedestrian circulation systems, the beach and swimming areas, the picnic areas, the dam and spillway and finally the campgrounds.

The vehicular circulation system was designed in such a manner as to carefully follow the contours of the land, using a minimum of cut and fill. The circulation system was also designed to take the maximum advantage of possible views. In keeping with the overall design of the other state parks, a main road with a long entry drive that passes through extensive and undeveloped park land leads directly from the entrance of the park to the center of the park activity, that is the beach/swimming area at Holliday Lake. From the park's main road branched a series of secondary and tertiary loop roads that pass through the campground, and maintenance areas. This system allowed daytime park visitors to travel directly to the day use area. With the addition of the campground area by 1972, the road system now provided campers with greater privacy and quiet. All of the major roads as well as the minor ones with severe slopes, were lined with stone culverts of which one survives today as well as coursed rubble constructed retaining walls.

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Right before entering the main recreational area of the park, located at the top of a slightly sloping hill is the park office. Built c.1980, the one-story, four bay, frame and vinyl-sided building rests on a concrete block foundation. The side-gable roof has a raking cornice and slightly overhanging eaves; a small square metal vent is located in the gable ends. The off-center entrance door on the southeast corner of the south wall consists of a single-leaf wood paneled door with 9-lights. A similar door is located to the west of the main entrance. Window openings consist of long single vertical lights. To the west of the park office is one of the few historic buildings in the park: a one-story, one-bay, well house built in 1939. Constructed of brick laid in stretcher bond and resting on a low concrete foundation, the building has a front-gable roof covered with slate shingles, slightly overhanging eaves, a raking cornice and exposed rafter tails. The slightly inset, off-center entrance consists of a wood, single-leaf door with two raised panels and 6-lights. A single 4/4 wood sash window with a rowlock brick sill is located on the east wall.

The central water feature at Holliday Lake is the 150-acre man-made lake. Like at the other state parks, the central water feature played an important role as an organizing element in the overall design. Since the beach area, usually associated with the water feature, was planned to be the focus of park activity, the main park road and many of the paths and trails were designed to lead directly to the water, often providing alluring glimpses of it along the way. This was the case at Holliday Lake. The picnic areas at all of the parks were also located directly on the water but often away from the central swimming area, providing the opportunity to see a different view of the water feature. The basic components of the Holliday Lake beach area include a guarded swimming area and a central concession and bathhouse located in one building. There is also a new dock area with a boathouse and storage buildings nearby. All of these buildings were constructed over a period from the 1970s to 2007.

According to park designs, picnic areas were to be sited near the water, to take advantage of both views and cool breezes. The focal point of the picnic areas at all the Recreational Demonstration Areas was the picnic shelter. The typical picnic shelter found at the recreational areas was an open, side-gable roof structure built of rough-hewn timbers, with built-in seating area at both ends, and a slate stone floor. There are two picnic shelters at Holliday Lake. Shelter #1 is a vernacular interpretation of the 1930's Rustic style, constructed of heavy, hewn, undressed rounded logs, using mortise and tenon construction, heavy nails and wood pegs. The side-gable roof covered with asphalt shingles has overhanging eaves, a raking cornice, and rounded exposed rafter tails. The roof's interior features exposed beam construction with heavy, log, king trusses in the gable ends; small log braces are found at each corner of the structure; the corner posts are connected by a simple log railing. The interior of the picnic shelter includes wood, built-in benches, a heavy slate floor and a small grouping of picnic tables. Shelter #2 built sometime during the 1970s is a simple one-story, side-gable roof picnic shelter is constructed of large square wood posts with simple wood braces. The side-gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles, has overhanging eaves, a raking cornice and exposed rafter tails. The gable ends are covered with vertical boards. The shelter rests on a concrete slab foundation. Several other structures were also commonly associated with picnic areas. Free-standing stone fireplaces for cookouts were often provided, as well as matching stone incinerators for safe and convenient ash and trash disposal.

In 1972, the area added a campground area and became the Holliday Lake State Park. In creating the campground area, the park followed previous design plans which placed the campground area off the main road, removed from

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the activity and noise of the day use areas of the park. Initially, tent and trailer camping areas were situated in separate but adjacent locations; however later park designs have both tents and trailers sharing the same area.

Maintenance areas at all state parks were separated from the central recreation area. Maintenance yards at most parks included a garage, shop, storage buildings, boathouse or blacksmith shop, oil house, water tower, filtration building, net house, and pump house. Typically, these buildings were place in a rectangular arrangement around an open work yard accessible to both cars and larger trucks. Maintenance structures in the Virginia state parks were characteristically modest, gable-roofed, board-and-batten structures painted a dull tan color, with a minimal number of doors and windows. However, at Holliday Lake, the maintenance area is much smaller consisting of only two garage/shop buildings that were built during the 1970s.

Dwellings were constructed at all of the parks for the superintendent, assistant superintendent, and park rangers. The chief ranger's house and the rangers' bunkhouse were typically located immediately adjacent to the maintenance area. At Holliday Lake, the chief ranger's house is found directly to the north of the maintenance area. The dwelling, a c. 1939 bungalow-styled building was originally located much closer to the lake area. The building was moved to its current site sometime during the 1970s. The superintendent's residence, built during the 1990s, lies to the north of this dwelling, located not far from the main park entrance. Both dwellings are far removed from the center of park activity.

**Inventory of Resources:**

The following inventory of resources was conducted in 2008 and reflects resources that are contributing and non-contributing to the historic district based on the period of significance and the integrity of the resources.

**Picnic Shelter #1, DHR # 006-0051-0001**

**Contributing (1-Structure)**

A vernacular interpretation of the 1930's Rustic style is this small, one-story picnic shelter, constructed of heavy, hewn, undressed rounded logs, using mortise and tenon construction, heavy nails and wood pegs. The side-gable roof covered with asphalt shingles has overhanging eaves, a raking cornice, and rounded exposed rafter tails. The roof's interior features exposed beam construction with heavy, log, king trusses in the gable ends; small log braces are found at each corner of the structure; the corner posts are connected by a simple log railing. The interior of the picnic shelter includes wood, built-in benches, a heavy slate floor and a small grouping of picnic tables.

**Picnic Shelter #2, DHR # 006-0051-0002**

**NC (1-Structure)**

This c.1970 simple one-story, side-gable roof picnic shelter is constructed of large square wood posts with simple wood braces. The side-gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles, has overhanging eaves, a raking cornice and exposed rafter tails. The gable ends are covered with vertical boards. The shelter rests on a concrete slab foundation.

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**Wellhouse, DHR # 006-0051-0003**

**Contributing (1-Building)**

This c. 1939, one-story, one-bay, well house is constructed of brick laid in stretcher bond and rests on a low concrete foundation. The front-gable roof is covered with slate shingles, has slightly overhanging eaves, a raking cornice and exposed rafter tails. The slightly inset, off-center entrance consists of a wood, single-leaf door with two raised panels and 6-lights. A single 4/4 wood sash window with a rowlock brick sill is located on the east wall.

**Dam/Spillway/Bridge/Lake, DHR # 006-0051-0004**

**Contributing (3-Structure, 1-Site)**

The bridge, dam and spillway are one of the three contributing elements that helped create the central water feature of the Twin Lakes State Park. The bridge, along with the dam and spillway was an important element in the overall park design of which the water feature, in this case the man-made lake provided the central focus. The dam is of concrete construction, as is the bridge.

**Observation Deck, DHR # 006-0051-0005**

**NC (1-Structure)**

Overlooking the lake, is a large, rectangular observation deck constructed of recycled wood; a simple square wood railing encloses the deck.

**Boathouse, DHR # 006-0051-0006**

**NC (3-Building)**

Part of a small grouping of marine-related buildings is this one-story, one-bay, frame boat house, sheathed in vinyl "novelty" siding. The side-gable roof has overhanging eaves and is covered with asphalt shingles; a small ventilator is found on the north slope of the roof. A single-leaf modern metal door with 9-lights is located on the north wall; small 1/1 vinyl sash windows are located on the west wall. A small enclosed shed addition is attached to the south wall of the building with a 1/1 sliding window. To the east of the boathouse are a frame, shed roof shed and a frame, gable-front roof storage building. Both buildings are clad in the same type of vinyl siding. All were constructed c. 2005.

**Concession Building, DHR # 006-0051-0007**

**NC (1-Building)**

This c.1972, large, one-story, L-shaped, frame building is covered with vinyl "novelty" siding and rests on a low, slab concrete foundation. The shed roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A shed roof pent marks concession windows; the slightly inset entrance has double-leaf commercial metal and glass doors.

**Restroom, DHR # 006-0051-0008**

**NC (1-Building)**

This c.1972, one-story, two bay, frame and vinyl sided building rests on a low concrete slab foundation. The side-gable roof features a slight pent on either gable end. Two privacy fences mark the single-leaf metal entrance doors on the north and south walls of the building. On the west wall are two window openings.

**Park Office, DHR # 006-0051-0009**

**NC (1-Building)**

This main office, built c.1979, is a one-story, four bay, frame and vinyl-sided building resting on a concrete block foundation. The side-gable roof has a raking cornice and slightly overhanging eaves; a small square metal vent is located in the gable ends. The off-center entrance door on the southeast corner of the south wall consists of a single-leaf wood paneled door with 9-lights. A similar door is located to the west of the main entrance. Window openings consist of long single vertical lights.



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**Drainage Culvert, DHR # 006-0051-0010**

**Contributing (1-Structure)**

One of the few surviving historic resources in the park is this slate drainage culvert and is one example of the type of internal improvements and construction employed by the CCC in building the state parks circulation systems in Virginia during the Depression.

**Retaining Wall, DHR # 006-0051-0011**

**Contributing (1-Structure)**

This random rubble rock retaining wall is located underneath the west side of the main park road.

**Cabin, DHR # 006-0051-0012**

**NC (4-Buildings)**

This c. 2007, one-story, three bay single-wide trailer is covered with a wood log-type veneer. The side-gable roof has slightly overhanging eaves, a raking cornice and is covered with standing seam metal. The slightly off-center entrance door on the west wall consists of a single-leaf wood paneled door. Window openings consist of modern vinyl 6/6 sash. Attached to the rear of the cabin is a modern wood deck and stairs. This cabin/bunkhouse is one example of a newly stylized "rustic" style seen in the early twenty-first century state park buildings and structures using single-wide trailers and log veneer. The cabin is the main building in a small compound that includes a frame, side-gable roof picnic shelter, a frame, side-gable roof bathhouse and a small frame, gable-front roof shed.

**Restroom, DHR # 006-0051-0013**

**NC (1-Building)**

This c. 1975 one-story, five bay, frame building is sheathed in vinyl siding and rests on a low slab concrete foundation. The side-gable roof is covered with asphalt shingle and has overhanging eaves. A slightly projecting, shed roof block with vinyl covered privacy walls mark the single-leaf metal entrance doors on the east wall. A central single-leaf metal door marks a closet area. On either side of each entrance is small bank of windows. To the north of the shed roof block is another privacy wall that hides a vending machine.

**Contact Station, DHR # 006-0051-0014**

**NC (1-Building)**

Marking the formal entrance to the park is this one-story, two-bay frame contact station, sheathed in vinyl siding and resting on a poured concrete slab foundation. The side gable roof is covered with asphalt shingle with a boxed cornice. On the east and west walls are a slightly-off-center single-leaf wood entrance door. To one side of the door is a 1/1 sliding glass window.

**Maintenance/Shop Sheds, DHR # 006-0051-0015**

**NC (2-Buildings)**

Standing side-by-side are two, one-story, side-gable roof machine/shop sheds. The larger of the two is frame, covered with corrugated metal siding; the side-gable roof is covered with corrugated metal. On the east wall are two large garage door bays. Located on the north wall and the southeast corner of the east façade wall are 1/1 sliding glass windows. To the south of this is a frame and corrugated metal shed with one large bay opening. Its side-gable roof is covered with asphalt shingle.

**Head Ranger House, DHR # 006-0051-0016**

**NC (1-Building)**

This c.1939 one-story, three bay, frame, single-family bungalow dwelling is covered with vinyl siding and rests on a raised concrete block foundation. The side-gable roof is covered with asphalt shingle; an interior brick chimney with metal vent is located on the rear east slope of the roof. Located in each gable end is a triangular metal vent. A one-story, shed roof porch is supported by square wood posts; the central entrance is marked by a single-leaf wood door.

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Window openings consist of modern vinyl 6/6 sash. Attached to the rear northeast corner of the house is a small shed roof addition. A one-story, side-gable-roof addition is attached to the north wall of the house.

The house has undergone major alteration as seen in the porch with the addition of a new wood balustrade and handicapped ramp, new windows and the addition of a rear deck. The house has also been moved from its original location near the lake to its present site.

**Park Superintendent House, DHR # 006-0051-0017**

**NC (1-Building)**

This c.2005, one-story, four bay, frame and vinyl sided, Minimal Traditional-styled, single-family dwelling rests on a low concrete block foundation. The side-gable roof is covered with asphalt shingle and has slightly overhanging eaves; on the north wall is an exterior brick chimney with corbelled cap. A two-bay cut-away engaged porch is supported by square wood posts connected to a simple wood balustrade is located on the northwest corner of the façade. The off-center entrance is a single-leaf wood paneled door. Window openings consist of single and paired 6/6 vinyl sash.

**Cemetery, DHR # 006-0051-0018**

**NC (1-Site)**

Located near the lake and to the west of Picnic Shelter #1 is the Jones family burying ground. The small cemetery consists of six stones marking the grave sites of that family dating from the mid-to-late-nineteenth century. The cemetery is in now way connected with Holliday Lake State Park and is a non-contributing resources to the Holliday Lake State Park Historic District.

**Circulation System, DHR # 006-0051-0019**

**Contributing (1-Structure)**

The circulation system at Holliday Lake State Park consists of a main roadway that enters the park and circles around the northernmost edge of Holliday Lake. In addition, running to the west of the main road and contact station is a small series of interconnecting roads for the campsite area. Other resources included within the circulation system include gutters, curbs, and steps. Pedestrian circulation consists of a series of walking trails that run to the east and west of the park's main area and concrete walkways to the concession area and restroom, and a gravel walkway that leads to Picnic Shelter #1.

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**Summary Statement:**

The area encompassing Holliday Lake State Park and the surrounding state forest was originally settled and farmed in the early-to-mid-nineteenth century. During the Great Depression of the 1930s, the federal government, through the newly-formed Resettlement Administration, began buying area farms in the hopes of returning the land to its former hardwood forest state and to create a recreation area. Construction of a dam was begun at Fish Pond Creek, then relocated to Holliday Creek where a lake could be developed. Unlike state parks, which were created based on master plans prepared in conjunction with the National Park Service, that employed the use of the style known as Rustic architecture, a style which stressed simplicity in design, use of native building materials, avoidance of overly perfect construction lines to evoke a look not unlike something built by a pioneer craftsman, recreation areas such as Holliday Lake were designed and built without formal plans. The end result is a site that is more a vernacular expression of the Rustic architecture designs and workmanship seen in the national parks. Even though Holliday Lake has very few structures as the efforts of the Forestry Service and the CCC were strictly in clearing and restoring the park lands, what still remains from this period while appearing crudely built, is still an excellent example of Rustic-inspired design and craftsmanship, as well as illustrating the development of Virginia state parks during the Depression era. . The park is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C for its association with CCC park development project and its park plan, respectively, with a level of statewide significance under the Multiple Property Submission for the CCC parks with a period of significance from 1937-1942.

**Detailed Statement of Significance**

**The Formation of Recreation Demonstration Areas and the CCC**

By 1933, as the United States grappled with the economic and human toll of the Great Depression, President Franklin D. Roosevelt entertained a number of ideas to offer relief and hope to the American people. The most daunting task facing the president was to create meaningful jobs for the large numbers of unemployed Americans. Of particular concern was the lack of employment opportunities for young men.

On April 17, 1933, Roosevelt implemented one of the most successful programs of his administration: the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Unlike the National Relief Agency (NRA), the CCC did more than offer aid. The CCC provided jobs through a variety of projects that included the rehabilitation and development of national and state parks and other recreation facilities. The impact of these efforts was profound as countless young men helped shape the physical and cultural landscape of the nation's parks.

The efforts of the Roosevelt administration to deal with parks fell under the auspices of another agency, the Public Works Administration (PWA). In July, 1933, a National Planning Board, later called the National Resources Board, was charged with planning of "recreational requirements" and "recreational procedures," particularly with regard to national parks. The board also wanted to be as inclusive as possible and, by 1934 and 1935, enlisted the help of states to form their own planning boards to begin creating recreation projects that would, among other things, utilize the CCC.<sup>1</sup>

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In addition to the creation of new state parks was the establishment of Recreation Demonstration Areas (RDAs). These facilities were the brainchild of President Roosevelt's Land Planning Committee and the National Park Service. Both agencies agreed that one of the most pressing needs in many urban areas were large natural areas to provide recreational outlets for people, particularly those of lower and middle incomes. This need would be filled with the creation of the RDAs, a concept that was enthusiastically supported by the Land Planning Committee. Unlike the state parks, the emphasis of the RDAs was on large group recreational activities, rather than family outings or day trips. Lodges and cabins that could accommodate groups of campers for extended periods were constructed and used by civic or welfare organizations that provided recreation for disadvantaged children. The NPS envisioned the creation of large natural areas ranging in size from 2,000 to 10,000 acres in which low-maintenance camping and picnic facilities would be built.<sup>2</sup>

Acquiring the land for new parks and RDAs initiated a controversial experiment in the relocation of people and the reclamation of land. Carried out under the auspices of the Land Planning Committee (and later the Rural Resettlement Administration), the program would reclaim acres of land ruined or exhausted from the ruinous farm practices, particularly in the South, and that had become a tax burden to the state. Some of these lands were earmarked for Recreation Demonstration Areas, to be absorbed into the state and National Park Systems. Estimates suggest that approximately as many as 100 million acres with as many as 650,000 families living a marginal existence could be reclaimed for public use. Approximately \$25 million from the Public Works Administration was appropriated for land acquisition.<sup>3</sup>

In Virginia, government assistance and rural rehabilitation programs under the Resettlement Administration moved hundreds of families off the land. But not everyone found the government's actions laudable. The human cost could be devastating as the programs forced small farmers and their families to seek other kinds of work, which in many cases they were ill-suited or ill-equipped to do. Legal battles lasting for years were frequent, as the state struggled to move reluctant landowners off property now desired by the government. Eventually the state won the authority to condemn occupied land and evict the families living there.<sup>4</sup>

Between 1933 and 1948, four Recreation Demonstration Areas—Bear Creek Lake, Holliday Lake, Goodwin Lake, and Prince Edward Lake—were developed by the Forest Service and built by the CCC. Although these sites were not developed within the design framework of the NPS, they share some design features and approaches to planning, including long entry drives, organizing water features, and structures built out of natural materials to blend with the landscape.

The design of the four Virginia RDAs was in large part influenced by the conservation guidelines, aesthetics, and planning processes developed by the National Park Service for use in the National Parks and later in Virginia state parks. The NPS park design process, known as the Master Plan process, was developed over the course of several years as a way to accommodate the Park Service's dual obligation of conservation of natural resources and provision of those resources for human enjoyment. CCC personnel and park administrators in Virginia drew on the existing Master Plan process, as well as NPS personnel, to develop Master Plans for the first six Virginia State Parks. These Master Plans were then modified and implemented to some degree when the Virginia State Park Service began drawing up plans to create four recreational sites, one of which was Bear Creek Lake State Park.

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The Virginia RDAs have a number of elements and approaches first developed or planned for the National and State Parks. Like the parks, the RDAs were to no more than a day's drive from a major population center. A body of water, in the case of the RDAs, a man-made body of water, provided a central organizing feature as well as the site of several types of recreation. Like the state parks, the RDAs were also discrete in their organization, separating the various uses of the area such as day use, service areas, ranger buildings, active recreation areas, and campsites.

In addition, the landscape and architectural aesthetics of the National Park Service guided the creation of the RDAs in Virginia. These ideas shaped relations between the natural and man-made landscape. Local materials and building traditions, as rough-hewn log picnic shelters or concrete block buildings, were used. Paths, stairs, trails, and bridges were unobtrusively built into the landscape with local stones. Dams, retaining walls, and spillways suggested natural forms without imitating them. Single entrance points into the parks were along carefully planned curving roads with intermittent views of open landscape. The conformity of the aesthetic and planning principles in the Virginia parks to those of National Parks was underscored by the publication of buildings from the Virginia parks in the three-volume 1938 edition of Albert H. Good's *Parks and Recreation Structures*.

The CCC in Virginia undertook a massive construction effort in building not only six state parks, but the four RDAs. Unlike the six state parks that relied heavily on the labor of CCC, the four RDAs had limited CCC input. In some cases, the efforts of the CCC were little more than helping with the initial construction of the RDAs road systems or in clearing or reforesting the land.

### **Park Design Concepts and Recreation Area Design**

Despite the less grand nature of the Recreation Development Areas, they were still influenced to a great degree by the Master Plan designs drawn up by the National Park Service. Although simpler in execution and perhaps even cruder in architectural expression, the RDAs still captured the essence of what the National Parks and Virginia State Parks were trying to accomplish.

The first impression of the park and its associated buildings and natural areas were important in the planning process. As such, it was important that the road system work successfully in the overall design of the RDAs. The RDAs, like the state parks created roadways and circulation systems that emphasized and preserved the natural beauty of the area. In addition, the circulation system organized the park and connected the various areas of the RDAs to the main entrance. In general, the impact of the roadways was to be minimal and was to blend in with the natural features of the park. The roads were also to have a minimal impact on existing landforms. The RDA road systems were organized into major and minor roadways. The major roadways were comprised to the park's entrance road and roads leading to major recreational features in the park. The minor roads were spurs off the major road, did not connect to other roadways, and terminated at dead ends. These minor roads were also not designed to accommodate heavy traffic. Examples of major roadways are the roads leading to natural areas, to the beach and lake area, and the entrance road. Minor roadways are those leading to camping areas, cabin areas, park residences, and maintenance and shop areas.

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An integral part of the park was the creation of a trail system, which allowed visitors to view the natural beauty of the park. The main purpose of the park, in addition to providing locations for sleeping, was to provide recreation. The variety of recreation provided depended on the park. As parks were to be planned preferably near a body of water, the park could provide water recreation such as swimming, fishing, and boating. These recreational activities required bath houses and the construction of piers and boat ramps. These buildings and structures were erected based upon the number of visitors expected at the park. The trails were developed based on available land and accessibility for hikers.

The picnic grounds at the recreation areas were all located in shaded locations near the water in order to take advantage of the spectacular views and cool breezes. Structures at the four recreation areas ranged from picnic shelters, fireplaces, toilets, and some maintenance buildings, though only Prince Edward State Park had a typical CCC maintenance area that included a shop, a garage, and sundry storage buildings.

Perhaps the most important distinction that separated the RDAs from the state parks was that the recreation areas were initially never intended for overnight use. As a result, certain types of buildings, such as ranger's quarters, offices, bathhouses and concessions areas, were never part of the original design plans. Also many of the construction details such as the stone culverts, retaining walls and steps are noticeably few or even absent from the recreation areas. In essence, even though the RDAs borrowed many of the basic design elements found in the state parks, the four areas tended to be much more modest undertakings.

### **The Formation of Holliday Lake State Park**

The area encompassing Holliday Lake State Park and the surrounding state forest was originally settled and farmed in the early-to-mid-nineteenth century. Little remains of this period except for a small family cemetery, located near the lake and boathouse area. The small enclosed plot contains six stones marking the graves of the William A. Jones family, who came to the area in the 1830s, in search of gold. By the beginning of the Depression, the area remained largely agricultural and poor. As part of the ongoing resettlement effort by the federal and state government, area farms were bought or seized in the hopes of returning the land to its former hardwood forest state, and to create a recreation area. The land used to create the Holliday Lake RDA was owned by a local farming family, the Hollidays.

Construction of a 55-foot dam was begun at Fish Pond Creek in 1937, then relocated to Holliday Creek where a 150-acre man-made lake was completed a year later. Co-sponsoring the dam construction was the United States Navy, which planned to use the area as an inland emergency landing base. However, the original height of the dam was abandoned with the discovery of the Jones family burial ground. Because the owners could not be located to move the bodies, the Navy abandoned its original plan and the height of the dam was scaled back. Construction of park's facilities was done by local residents and CCC workers. A CCC camp, now the site of the Holliday Lake 4-H Camp, located across from the park, housed the workers. The camp included several wood frame cabins and a Dining Hall. In 1942, the Commonwealth of Virginia, through an agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture, received a 99-year lease and took over the management of the recreational area. In 1972, with the addition of campgrounds, the recreation area became Holliday Lake State Park.

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**Endnotes**

<sup>1</sup> Ney C.Landrum, *The State Park Movement in America: A Critical Review*, Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2004, p. 143.

<sup>2</sup> Landrum, pp. 144-145, Land and Community Associates, "Survey of State-Owned Properties: Division of Parks and Recreation," July 1988, pp. 42-43.

<sup>3</sup> Landrum, p. 144, Jennifer Catherine Reut and Bryan Clark Green. "Virginia State Parks Built by the Civilian Conservation Corps, 1929-1936," Multiple Property Documentation Form, n.d., pp. 9-10.

<sup>4</sup> Reut and Green, p. 10.

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**Geographical Data**

**UTM Points**

**Zone 17, Datum 27**

A 708280E 4142055N  
B 708860E 4142110N  
C 708960E 4142100N  
D 709475E 4141900N  
E 709535E 4141640N  
F 709265E 4140725N  
G 709160E 4140650N  
H 708835E 4140680N  
I 708295E 4141680N

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary of the nominated district is delineated by the polygon, whose vertices are marked by the above listed UTM reference points; and is shown on the attached scaled map as printed by the Department of Historic Resources GIS mapping system. The boundary encompasses all that which is known as Holliday Lake State Park at 254.63 acres as provided by the Department of Conservation and Recreation. The boundary roughly surrounds Holiday Lake with most of the eastern edge bounded by Holiday and Forbes Creeks, and the western edge bounded by Sanders Creek

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary for the Holliday Lake State Park is all that which is owned and operated as the Holliday Lake State Park by the Department of Conservation and Recreation within the Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest in Appomattox County, Virginia along the Buckingham County line.

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**Photographic Data**

All photographs taken by Meg Greene Malvasi, April 29, 2008

Digital images stored at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources

View: Picnic Shelter #1, East view  
Photo: 1 of 15

View: Jones Family Cemetery, South view  
Photo: 13 of 15

View: Picnic Shelter #1, Roof detail  
Photo: 2 of 15

View: Dock area, South view  
Photo: 14 of 15

View: Picnic Shelter #1, Interior detail  
Photo: 3 of 15

View: Park Office, South and West elevations  
Photo: 15 of 15

View: Well House, West view  
Photo: 4 of 15

View: Drainage area, South view  
Photo: 5 of 15

View: Retaining Wall, East view  
Photo: 6 of 15

View: Contact Station, East elevation  
Photo: 7 of 15

View: Cabin, West elevation  
Photo: 8 of 15

View: Holliday Lake beach area and lake, South view  
Photo: 9 of 15

View: Bridge, South view  
Photo: 10 of 15

View: Picnic area, Southwest view  
Photo: 11 of 15

View: Concession Building, North elevation  
Photo: 12 of 15

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HOLIDAY LAKE  
STATE PARK  
UTM ZONE 17

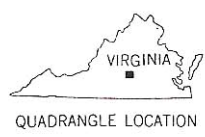
DATUM 27	
E	N
A 708280	4142055
B 708860	4142110
C 708960	4142100
D 709475	4141900
E 709535	4141640
F 709265	4140725
G 709160	4140650
H 708835	4140680
I 708295	4141680

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1987

### ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, all weather, hard surface	Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface	Unimproved road, fair or dry weather

○ State Route



**HOLIDAY LAKE, VA.**  
NW/4 PAMPLIN CITY 15' QUADRANGLE  
N3722.5—W7837.5/7.5

1968  
PHOTOREVISED 1981  
DMA 5258 1 NW—SERIES V834

(PROSPECT)  
5258 1 SE